

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /136 W

----- 078548

R 131745Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5543

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IN

SUBJ: BREZHNEV VISIT TO INDIA

1. SOVIET EMBASSY AND INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS REFUSE DIRECTLY CONFIRM PRAN SABHRWAL'S REPORT TO BALTIMORE SUN JULY 12 THAT BREZHNEV WILL VISIT NEW DELHI IN AUGUST, AND POSSIBLY IN TIME TO HELP COMMEMORATE INDO-SOVIET TREATY SECOND ANNIVERSARY ON AUGUST 9. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS EMPHASIZE THEY CANNOT COMMENT AT THIS TIME BUT SUGGEST WE CHECK BACK NEXT WEEK. WE TAKE THIS AS BEING CONFIRMATION IN EFFECT THAT VISIT IS BEING WORKED OUT BUT THAT FINAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN FIXED.

2. SABHARWAL CLAIMS HE GOT STORY DIRECTLY FROM LVJET CHARGE D'AFFAIRES WHO ACTUALLY SAID DECISION ON VISIT WAS STILL SEVERAL DAYS AWAY (WHICH MAY EXPLAIN WHY FOREIGN MINISTRY SUGGESTS WE CHECK NEXT WEEK.)

3. INDIANS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR SOVIETS TO TELL THEM WHO IS AVAILABLE TO VISIT INDIA FOR SOME TIME AND TO FRUSTRATION
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OF SOVIET EMBASSY HERE, MOSCOW HAS -- UNTIL NOW -- NOT

BEEN READY TO COMMIT ANY OF THE TOP THREE TO TRAVEL TO INDIA.
MRS. GANDHI HAS TAKEN POSITION SHE WILL NOT GO TO MOSCOW
AGAIN UNTIL SOVIETS RETURN HER LAST VISIT (HENCE HER REFUSAL
TO EVEN STOP OFF IN MOSCOW EN ROUTE TO YUGOSLAVIA AND CANADA
DESPITE STRONG SOVIET URGING).

4. WE WILL APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENT
EMBASSY MOSCOW MAY HAVE.
MOYNIHAN

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